

14. (1)
EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE IN TORONTO
OF THE
UPPER CANADA UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT.

LETTER FROM THE REV. W. H. POOLE, WESLEYAN MINISTER, COBOURG,
AND LATE

Travelling Agent on behalf of the University of Victoria College.*

To the Editor of the *Christian Guardian*.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—The opposition made by the *Leader*, the *Montreal Witness*, and other professed friends of University College, Toronto, to the resolutions of the Wesleyan Conference in reference to Victoria College and its claims for a more liberal support, has had, at least, this one beneficial effect: It has awakened a spirit of inquiry among our people, in reference to the munificent endowment set apart for the promotion of a University education in this country. The more fully this question is discussed in all its bearings, the better will it be for the educational interests of this country in general, and for Victoria College in particular.

Having received letters of inquiry from different parts of the country, in regard to the *sources of revenue*, the *annual income*, and *annual outlay* of the Upper Canada and University Colleges, I take the liberty, with your permission, of answering these questions through your columns,—giving to others at the same time, it may be, that information which, though not solicited, may nevertheless be necessary to the full understanding of this subject.

In the Journals of the Legislative Assembly, Vol. XVI. No. 4 (Appendix 12, Account No. 7), it is stated, on the authority of the Bursar, that 63,799½ acres of land, besides several blocks of land in the City of Toronto, were set apart as a source of income for Upper Canada College. This College, or High School, is considered now as only a preparatory department connected with University College. It is stated, on the same authority (No. 8), that there had been expended, up to the 31st of December, 1857, the large sum of £129,633 15s. 2d.; besides £4,581 2s. 2d. invested in buildings, boarding-houses, offices, &c.; leaving a balance of only £35,133 19s. 9d. invested in debentures, &c. It will seem astonishing to those unacquainted with the management of public funds, to find such a large proportion of the original endowment and income already expended. Our readers can comment for themselves.

The outlay for this preparatory department alone, on account of the *income fund*, for the year ending as aforesaid,—not including *building-fund appropriations*, or *boarding-house appropriations*, or *bursar's office appropriations*,—amounts to £5,897 19s. 3d. If we include the outlay as reported from all those funds for that year (1857), it amounts to £11,415 9s. 3d. In this amount there are included two annual grants of £1,111 2s. 2d. each from the Provincial chest; as though the thousands in hand were not enough: or as though there were not stronger claims among other institutions for what the Provincial chest could spare. Compare the amount here expended from year to year, with the £750 doled out to Victoria College, with her 350 students, and then answer the following question: Should we, as citizens, longer defer to the hostile jealousy of the *Montreal Witness* by being silent on this matter? A paper which, virtually admitting the denominational system, *after* the noble endowment is well nigh spent, would *now*† seek to abolish the “costly machinery” and shut the door when the steed was stolen! Should we not repel the unjust attacks on our body, which he professes to found upon his own inability to see any difference between supporting a purely literary institution under denominational oversight, without theological tests and teachings, and

* Reprinted as amended.

† Witness of the 19th instant.

theological colleges professedly devoted to the sectarian interests of the Roman Catholic Priesthood? The proverb well says, "None are so blind as those who will not see!"

But we turn to the Provincial University Endowment Fund. Here we find munificence on a much larger scale. Of the broad field and woodlands of Canada, which, with so much delight and national pride we *call* our own, 226,017 acres were solemnly set apart to educate, in the higher departments of learning, the thousands born on the soil or brought to our shores. The cash receipts from the sale of those lands, on the 31st of December, 1857, amounted to £226,534 0s. 11d. Of that sum, to the same date, there had been expended £188,250 12s. 2d. [\$753,122 44, or more than three-quarters of a million of dollars.*] When to this amount is added the large sums expended in 1858 and 1859, in completing and furnishing the new College buildings, fitting up the grounds, furnishing the museum, library, &c. &c., it will be seen that a large proportion of that fund has been already disposed of. Was it ever the intention of the noble-minded men who set that land apart for such a worthy purpose, to spend either the principal or interest in stone-quarries or brick-yards—in paying architects or artisans—thus converting the *endowment fund* into a *building fund*, and localizing and sectionalizing that which belonged to the *whole* community, thereby depriving those portions of the community, who found their building materials elsewhere, of their just proportion of the benefit arising from that endowment fund?†

But it is not to those buildings and grounds only that the young Canadian will point in years to come, as he says that our princely college endowment was needlessly squandered; there are other ways in which, we are bold to say, that our magnificent fund is being frittered away. Let 'Squire W—, whose letter of inquiry is now before me, take the items of expenditure for one year ending as aforesaid, and judge for himself. They are as follows, copied from the Bursar's "Statement of Disbursements on account of *Income Fund*":—

Bursar's office	\$9,044 00	Law costs	\$649 25
Incidentals.....	4,989 85	Stationery	2,394 06
Salaries to Professors and others	28,520 00	Fuel	756 83
Scholarships	4,973 33	Interest, &c. &c.	60 60
Examiners.....	2,160 00	Balance at debit of Observatory ..	5,020 13
Prizes.....	773 10	“ “ grounds' appropriation ..	835 20
Advertising	787 96		
Insurance	467 50		\$61,431 81

[In addition to this expenditure from the income fund, \$104,148 87 in 1857, and \$100,000, as estimated in 1858, were transferred for building purposes from the permanent endowment, besides \$28,000 from the same *capital fund* for the library and museum; thus irretrievably reducing the original endowment by these sums (\$232,148), as well as by the building and library expenditures of the current year, which will probably amount to \$150,000 more, as originally estimated.]

From these few items alone, the reader will see how the money is expended. The Bursar's office alone costs the country more than three times the amount given that year to Victoria College, with her 350 students. Nearly \$5,000 were paid out in one year for "incidentals," being \$2,000 more than could be spared for the College of Arts at Cobourg or at Kingston. Does this look

* The receipts and expenditure of the University, from the beginning down to the end of 1856, is given by the Bursar in Appendix No. 28 of the Appendix to the Journals of the House of Assembly for 1857, as follows: Receipts, £381,956 10s. [or \$1,527,826]; of this sum, \$836,135 were invested, and the balance of \$691,691 expended in one way or another up to that date.

† The account of the building expenditure for 1858—estimated in Statement No. 11 of the Appendix to the Journals for 1857, at \$100,000—should have been given in the Appendix to the Journals for 1858, No. 50; but, from professed motives of economy, it is *entirely omitted!* Thus the public are denied access in the only official manner provided for the publication of such information, to the accounts of the University and Upper Canada College since 1857. Not even a clue is given to the actual expenditure of these Provincial institutions, although three-fourths of the information given is about the Observatory—a mere branch; while the accounts which are thus kept secret, are professedly audited by the very Vice-Chancellor who is one of the parties to this vast and extravagant expenditure. A *very* convenient and economical family arrangement, certainly! Who audits the Auditor, Mr. Witness?

like fair play, economy, or retrenchment? The sum of \$5,746 can be given for scholarships and prizes (strong inducements these) to entice young men there, and to flatter the vanity of the victorious in their close [?] contest for honors, some of whom have honestly admitted that they felt ashamed in bearing off their honors, as they had no competitors; and yet, when the claims of a sister University are presented, we are told that the state of the finances is such, that, living or dying, Victoria College need not expect an advance on \$3,000, and even that may be withheld. One College receives \$28,520 for salaries of Professors: it may not be too much; but if it be not too much, then \$3,000 is far too little to divide among the Professors of another College—one which, at least, brings forth as good fruit, our enemies themselves being the judges. Let the reader look at the item of stationery, only \$2,394! nearly as much as our whole grant. To the enormous outlay of other years we need not now refer.

There is a fact, however, bearing directly here, which must be noticed. It is well known, in some circles at least, that a handsome sum (quite enough to relieve our embarrassed College), said to be \$40,000,* was at one time appropriated from the College fund to meet the embarrassments of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railroad Company, although it was known, when that act was perpetrated, that the representatives of a certain College were told that there was no surplus funds from which they might receive aid. A railroad company could receive assistance from the Provincial College treasury, to meet a pressing emergency; while a University holding a Provincial charter, whose halls were well filled with students from all parts of the country, of all denominations, is coolly informed that, however liberal and patriotic her work—however crowded her halls—or however strong her claim,—there were no funds! The law of the land, more liberal than its administrators, provides for the division of surplus funds among other Colleges; but, at the rate of expenditure here presented, the treasury is not likely soon to be burdened with surplus funds.

If, instead of spending that £317,914 7s. 4d. (or upwards of one million and a quarter of dollars, from both the permanent endowment and income funds), reported as having been spent in the city of Toronto, the Government had encouraged the idea of one University and several denominational Colleges, under the care and control of those by whom they were erected and in part sustained; each freed from sectarian tests and sectarian teachings; each open to the inspection of the Government, and bound to make official returns thereunto; and each receiving from a general fund in proportion to the number of students of a certain age, or of certain prescribed literary attainments,—we would now have, at a much less sacrifice of means, a much more efficient and satisfactory provision for our higher educational interests. We would then have something like what has often been talked of as a model for this country. I mean the London University, in England. There might be in Canada, as in England, one or more institutions in immediate connexion with the Church of England; one, as the Presbyterian College at Caermarthen; and others, as the Roman Catholic College at Oscott; the Baptist College at Bristol; and the Wesleyan College at Sheffield. These are all institutions from which the London University is empowered to receive certificates for degrees. Such a basis might be so guarded and modified as thoroughly to liberalise the whole, without being unjust to any. Or, if the Government chose rather to experiment for a number of years, at the public expense, with one College, and that one the darling of the University—the creature of the Government of the day,—let a fixed amount be set apart, sufficient, with due economy, to meet the views of those who desire a Government institution under such circumstances, and let the remainder of the fund, from year to year, be properly divided among other Colleges, in accordance with some rule of equity. But let not one institution eat up and squander the income of all.

Hoping that our lay friends will take as their motto on this question,—“Full discussion and fair play,”

I remain, yours truly,

W. H. POOLE.

Cobourg, November 10th, 1859.

* In the Appendix to the Journals for 1856, No. 11, Statement 7, this appropriation is set down at 60,000 dollars!